

years. If 25 latanoprost patients were treated instead with travoprost, one new VFD would be avoided over 5 years. **CONCLUSION:** According to our model, the better control of both mean IOP and IOP variance by travoprost should better preserve patient vision. Prospective data collection should be performed to confirm our findings.

PES16**MEDICAL OUTCOME OF GLAUCOMA TREATMENT IN FRANCE**

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OBJECTIVE: To estimate the medical outcome of glaucoma/ocular hypertension (OH) treatment in France according to usual practice. **METHODS:** Ophthalmologists selected at random had to include 4 consecutive patients older than 18 seen in consultation during a week, 2 with glaucoma and 2 with OH. Socio-demographics, general and eye comorbidities, glaucoma risk factors, visual acuity (VA), papilla, and visual fields were collected. A visual field defect (VFD) was defined as a deterioration of papilla exam and visual field since diagnosis. A treatment switch was defined as adding a new drug or changing any of the current treatments. Time to failure of a treatment regimen, broken out by the number of treatment switches, was compared using the likelihood ratio applied to survival curves. **RESULTS:** One hundred and twenty seven of the 337 patients included by the 84 ophthalmologists had their full treatment documented from diagnosis. Twelve patients developed a new VFD after diagnosis (average follow-up: 2.5 years). No statistically significant difference on the known confounding factors of VFD was found between patients with and without VFD. Patients with VFD had a lower VA (−1.23; $P < 0.08$). At 3 years, 2.7% of the patients with no treatment switch had a VFD, compared to 22.6% with one treatment switch and 46.3% with >2 treatment switches. The difference between the three groups was statistically significant ($P < 0.01$). **CONCLUSION:** Patients with fewer treatment switches have less VFD. Under isotropic hypotheses, effective treatment strategies should be used first line in order to avoid visual field defect and therefore protect long-term patient vision.

PES17**PSORIASIS AND DEPRESSIVE SYMPTOMATOLOGY**

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Skin diseases have a strong impact on physical and mental well-being of the patient. These diseases can appear at any age and, generally speaking, they have a greater reper-

cussions on the quality of life of women. Dermatological conditions often alter the patient's own body image, which can cause psychological problems such as depression, anxiety and even suicide. **OBJECTIVE:** To evaluate the depressive symptomatology (DS) of patients with psoriasis. The CES-D (Center for Epidemiologic Studies—Depression scale), a short self-report scale composed of 20 items, is a questionnaire designed to measure DS in the general population. The CES-D is widely used in epidemiological surveys on large populations. **METHOD:** One thousand five hundred CES-D questionnaires were sent via a psoriasis patients support group: the APLCP. The questionnaires once completed were sent back through a prepaid envelope. **RESULTS:** Six hundred thirty-seven questionnaires were returned: response rate: 42.5%. The sex ratio Men/Women was 46/54. Mean age: 48.9 years. Mean age of diagnosis: 25.7 years. The average to the total score was 20.9 (sd:12.5). The preliminary results showed DS in 48% of patients with psoriasis (versus 19% in the general population). There is DS in 47.1% of men and 49.0% of women. Two groups were identified: flare-up of psoriasis (46.7%), psoriasis not in flare-up (51.8%)—no answers (1.5%). Current episode of psoriasis are linked with higher frequency of DS (54.3% versus 42.4%). Psoriasis had a greater impact on patients with episode: CES-D score: 22.8 (sd:12.74) than patients without present episode CES-D score : 19.22 (s.d :11.96). This difference was significant ($p < 0.0003$). **CONCLUSION:** Psoriasis patients have an increased risk of DS compared to the general population (48% versus 19%). A recent episode of psoriasis results in a more important frequency of DS in patients (54.3% versus 42.4%). Appropriate disease management and any treatment that could reduce flare-up frequency would improve patients' quality of life and help them face their psoriasis.

EAR, EYE & SKIN DISEASES/DISORDERS—Quality of Life/Utility**PES18****VISION RELATED QUALITY OF LIFE OF FRENCH PATIENTS IS AFFECTED BY TOPICAL GLAUCOMA TREATMENT SIDE EFFECTS**

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OBJECTIVES: To evaluate the consequences of local anti-glaucoma drug side effects on the vision-related quality of life of French patients. **METHODS:** A mail survey was sent to 20,000 homes belonging to the Sofres panel (representative of the French population according to the quota method) asking whether one member of the family was treated with one of the available topical anti-glaucoma drugs. A computer-assisted telephone interviewing system was used to confirm self-reported glaucoma treatment, to describe the disease and its treat-

ment, as well as medical item consumption. Vision-related QoL was assessed with the NEI-VFQ-25 and local tolerance with the COMTOL. **RESULTS:** Thirteen thousand three hundred and fifty-two homes (66.7%) answered the mail. Five hundred eighty-one people declared they were treated for glaucoma, leading to glaucoma and ocular hypertension treatment prevalence of 1.8%, increasing with age. Of those with glaucoma, 173 patients under treatment at the time of the interview were selected at random. Their NEI-VFQ-25 global score was high showing an overall good QoL. Two domain scores showed some deterioration: general health and driving. COMTOL results identified 62.4% of the patients cited at least one local side effect: 25.4% had burning, 20.8% blurred vision and 20.2% tearing amongst others. Vision related QoL was affected by local side effects (up to 34.4%) leading to poor perceived treatment satisfaction that impacted compliance. Burning and stinging, dimming of vision, focusing from near to far and trouble seeing at night intensively affected QoL ($P < 0.001$) while redness, unusual taste and discharge from the eye did not reach the 0.10 P-Value. Dissatisfied patients visited their ophthalmologist more frequently leading to extra expenses. **CONCLUSION:** Based on a representative French sample, vision related QoL is affected by topical drug side effects that also impact patient satisfaction, compliance and cost.

PES19

INITIAL DEVELOPMENT AND VALIDATION OF THE EYE ALLERGY PATIENT IMPACT QUESTIONNAIRE (EAPIQ)

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OBJECTIVE: To develop an instrument to assess the impact of ocular allergy symptoms. General health and allergy questionnaires do not adequately address the specific concerns of patients who suffer from chronic and/or seasonal ocular allergies and see ophthalmologists. **METHODS:** We modified an instrument, the Dry Eye Disease Impact Questionnaire (DEDIQ), to create the pretest version of the EAPIQ. Following pretesting with a small group of patients the EAPIQ was administered along with the MiniRQLQ, a rhinoconjunctivitis instrument developed by Juniper et al., in a randomized clinical trial studying a new ocular allergy treatment (300 US patients). To facilitate global use, we tested the EAPIQ with 48 allergy patients in 4 European countries, followed by focus groups to gain input on relevance of items and satisfaction with EAPIQ administration. **RESULTS:** Face validity was demonstrated in the initial pretest of the questionnaire. Modifications were made for use in the clinical trial. Many items (e.g. limitation reading and driving, days symptoms interfered with leisure activities) on the EAPIQ were found to correlate with patient reports of symptoms (itching) and the mRQLQ. European patients generally felt the EAPIQ addressed

their concerns and suggested few changes to the questionnaire, including reducing the number of redundant items and standardizing the scaling options. The 48 participants had a mean age of 37 years and 52% were female. 78% reported use of allergy treatments 2–3 times daily. The most bothersome symptoms were itchy eyes (52%) and watery eyes (23%). Most patients felt irritable, embarrassed or self-conscious a “good-bit-of time” due to their eye allergy symptoms. **CONCLUSION:** The EAPIQ is a disease specific instrument that captures and addresses the symptomatic, outcomes, and QOL concerns of patients suffering from seasonal and chronic ocular allergy symptoms. A revised-final version of the EAPIQ is currently undergoing testing in a multinational validation study.

PES20

DERIVATION OF SYMPTOMS SCORES AND QOL SCORES FROM CLINICAL DATA IN SEASONAL ALLERGIC CONJUNCTIVITIS

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OBJECTIVES: Using data from a prospective, randomized, double blind clinical trial comparing olopatadine to levocabastine in patients with Seasonal Allergic Conjunctivitis (SAC), two synthetic scores, summarizing recorded effectiveness information one being a single-dimensional symptoms score and the other a quality-of-life (QOL) measure were derived. We then compared the two measures in various national contexts. **METHODS:** Correspondence analysis was used to analyze the study results. Coordinates on the first factorial axis were transformed into an aggregate symptom score and averaged across patients at each visit. At the same time, 32 experts from 6 European countries were asked to quantify the impact of each level of each symptom on QOL from a patient's perspective. They were also asked to weigh on each symptom. An aggregated QOL score was thus derived and averaged across patients in both arms. **RESULTS:** At baseline, aggregated symptoms scores were identical across both groups of patients ($p = 0.798$). At day 42, the score in the olopatadine branch was significantly better than that in the levocabastine arm ($p = 0.032$). QOL life scores exhibited the same pattern of improvement. Comparisons between scores show that QOL score is positively, but not linearly, correlated to the symptom score. For high levels of symptom severity, a clinical improvement, measured in terms of a reduction of symptoms intensity, offers little QOL improvement, while the same improvement, starting from a lower level of symptom score, offers an important QOL improvement. **CONCLUSION:** The indicators constructed from the study data exhibit several interesting properties. Although they have strong clinical significance, they do not describe the